



DSC@work

August / September 2003 / Issue One



R. Felton Brunson Receives Presidential Award for his Volunteer Efforts

R. Felton Brunson, a volunteer for the National Park Service and retired career employee, was presented with a special Presidential Award June 27, 2003 from Secretary of Interior Gale A. Norton for his volunteering efforts and dedication to the National Park Service. The award was presented to Mr. Brunson during a ceremony at the Four Mile Historic Park in Denver, in which the Secretary announced the new executive director for the “Take Pride in America” program.

Mr. Brunson retired in 1998 from the Park Service after a 37-year career, and has been volunteering since. He has logged more than 6,000 volunteer hours providing engineering and design expertise to the Denver Service Center, parks, and regions. Felton designed the water reclamation system for the south rim of the Grand Canyon while employed by the Park Service, and finished the project after he retired. He also worked as the civil engineer on the visitor center at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska, doing most of the work after he retired. This past year, Felton traveled to Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada to work with Heath Consultants to locate water lines, valves, fire hydrants, and meters. Mr. Brunson produced up-to-date as-constructed drawings for nine developed areas at Lake Mead and investigated water item replacements.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

“What projects are DSC working on?” Has someone asked you this question, and you cannot think of a project to talk about?

We all know the mission of the Denver Service Center. We are working hard, particularly this time of the year, to award contracts, meet our deadlines, and meet our client's needs on behalf of the National Park Service. But, depending where you work within DSC, you may not hear about many of our great projects.

We're launching this internal newsletter to better highlight for our office the work done by this office. We'll also include many of the items we regularly post on InsideNPS.

DSC@work will also serve as another venue for us to communicate office-wide as we move into business lines with the realignment. If you have suggestions on how we can make this a better tool please let me know. This newsletter will be distributed on a bimonthly basis through Lotus Notes, and will be available to download in a pdf format. It will also be available through our internal (inside.nps.gov/programs/dsc) and external (www.nps.gov/dsc) websites.

Project Updates

Grand Canyon National Park - South Rim Maintenance and Warehouse Facility *DSC's Largest Design-Build Project Complete*

The Grand Canyon National Park's new South Rim Maintenance and Warehouse Facility was completed in May 2003. The need for this facility was first envisioned during development of the park's general management plan (GMP). Existing facilities for both maintenance and warehouse operations were inadequate, too small, and scattered throughout the South Rim.

DSC has worked with park staff and been involved with this project from its inception. A working team began programming and preliminary design for the project in 1998. During an initial workshop, staff identified functional relationships between maintenance and warehouse operations, facility space requirements, and operational requirements. DSC developed preliminary site and building plans responding to needs identified in the workshop, with the subsequent plans including more than 90,000 square feet of building space.

Park and DSC staff then participated in a value analysis of functions and facilities. Shared facilities were maximized and other sustainable design solutions were applied, resulting in a decrease of over 20,000 square feet of building space, while still meeting operational and functional needs.

In an effort to save costs and time, the park suggested the project be completed using the design-build process. DSC worked closely with the park and developed a request for proposals (RFP), including detailed performance specifications, project requirements and contractor selection criteria. Twenty-eight contractors submitted qualifications for the project; three were short-listed to provide detailed proposals; and Shaw Beneco Enterprises was awarded a contract in April 2001.

The completed facility meets sustainability criteria required for certification under the *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) program. Examples of sustainable construction processes and materials include:

- Reinforcing and structural steel, window frames, carpet, restroom partitions, and interior insulation are all made with post-consumer recycled content.
- Building envelopes (walls, roofs, doors) are heavily insulated or have high insulating values and mass, in order to decrease energy loads required for mechanical HVAC systems.
- Optimal indoor air quality was achieved by controlling HVAC infiltration during construction, using non-VOC-emitting carpet, and zoning copiers/equipment to areas with separated air handling systems.
- All vegetation cleared from the site was used in this project, or will be used by the park for other construction projects.
- Extensive use of integrally colored materials, which will significantly reduce painting cycles and the maintenance burden on the park.

Administration exterior





Aerial photo



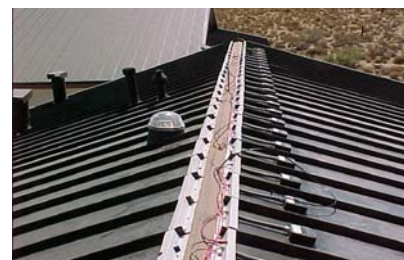
Woodshop

In addition to the consolidation of park maintenance operations, implementation of this facility is a critical step in a series of upcoming changes identified in the GMP, which will ultimately enable the conversion of the historic powerhouse to visitor services as part of the Heritage Education Campus.

Although both DSC and the park had contracted for smaller design-build projects, this project represents the most complex and the largest project completed to date using the design build process for both the park and DSC. This project was solely funded through the Fee Demonstration Program, and net construction costs for the entire project were \$14,040,900.

Mojave National Preserve Project Selected for Energy Award

The Mojave National Preserve has been selected to receive a 2003 Federal Energy and Water Management Award for the Hole in the Wall Interagency Fire



*Photovoltaic system
on roof of dormitory*

Center. DSC was involved with this project from cradle to grave. DSC completed all pre-design through Development Advisory Board (DAB) tasks with in-house design staff, including a design charrette in the park with participation from park, interagency fire crews, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, and DSC. After DAB approval, DSC prepared a design-build package and negotiated a contract through a sole-source 8(a) procurement with J.R. Cardenas Construction, Inc., who subcontracted the design services with Strobel Architects. Total contract costs for this project was \$1.6 million.

The project replaced existing inadequate and deteriorating modular buildings with a new interagency fire management center including a 4,200 square foot dormitory, 5,500 square foot vehicle storage/maintenance building, and fire cache, along with all associated site development (parking, walks, landscaping, and fuel pump service) and utilities (water, septic, power, and telephone services). The new facility meets LEED Green Building Rating System certification standards, and includes state-of-the-art photovoltaic solar power and HVAC systems, plus features such as natural daylighting to minimize back-up diesel generator power needs.

This premier energy award is presented to recognize outstanding contributions to energy and water efficiency, and the increased use of renewable energy resources within the federal sector by the Federal Interagency Energy Policy Committee and the Department of Energy. The award will be presented October 29 during a ceremony in Washington D.C.

DSC General Management Plans & Special Resource Studies

Fiscal Year 2003

Project Status as of August 20, 2003

- Total general management plan / special resource study projects in FY 2003 = 50
- General management plans / special resource studies expected to be completed FY 2003 = 4 (8%)
 - Ft. Circle (National Capital Parks East)
 - Nicodemus NHS
 - Santa Monica NRA
 - Wilson's Creek NB
- General management plans / special resource studies expected to be completed in 1st quarter of FY 2004 = 7 (14%)
 - Arkansas Post NMem
 - Big Bend NP
 - Coronado NMem
 - Grand Portage NM
 - Sunset Crater Volcano NM
 - Walnut Canyon NM
 - Wupatki NM
- New general management plan starts in FY 2003 = 12 (24%)
 - Alibates Flint Quarries NM
 - Amistad NRA
 - Canyon de Chelly NM
 - Fort Donelson NB
 - Gulf Islands NS
 - Harpers Ferry NHP
 - Hovenweep NM
 - John Day Fossil Beds NM
 - Montezuma Castle NM
 - Tuzigoot NM
 - Monocacy NB
 - Nicodemus NHS
 - Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front NHP
- The NPS Planning Leadership Group's (PLG) long term target for GMP completions is 25 a year. However, the PLG expects a more realistic goal for the near-term is to complete 12 GMP"s annually service-wide.
- DSC receives approximately 60% of GMP program funding and typically works on the larger and more complex GMP projects on behalf of the NPS.



Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Big Bend National Park



Canyon de Chelly National Monument

Welcome New Employees

Margaret Lemke has joined DSC's Contracting Services Division, where she will be working as a Contract Specialist, focusing her efforts on contracting for the Eastern Group. Margaret is joining the NPS from the Department of Defense, TRICARE Management Activity. She was a Contract Specialist for the administration of two multi-billion dollar managed care support services contracts. Margaret began her federal career in 1972 with the Bureau of Mines in Denver, and then with the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. Margaret also was with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado for 17 years in various positions including Subcontracts Section Manager. She was the Contracts Manager for the multi-agency Partnership for New Generation of Vehicles resulting in the hybrid electric vehicles.

Steve Hoffman has joined DSC's Planning and Site Design Branch where he will be working as a Natural Resource Specialist. Steve will be focusing his efforts on NEPA compliance for the Federal Lands Highway Program (FLHP) in Planning Group A. Steve is joining the National Park Service from the Bureau of Reclamation's Denver Technical Service Center, where his principal work was identifying lands best suited for irrigated agriculture (land classification). His job duties usually took him to farming communities throughout the western states, but "other duties as assigned" included a 5-month detail to Somalia, Africa in 1986 to 1987, and other shorter details throughout the U.S., on loan to the EPA or FEMA. One of his last temporary duty assignments for Reclamation was participating in the Columbia Shuttle Recovery effort in Texas.

Dolores (Dolly) Fernandez is DSC's new Chief of Contracting Services. Ms. Fernandez joins NPS from the General Services Administration (GSA) in Denver, where she was a Regional Account Manager and a Former Acquisition Executive in the GSA Public Buildings Service's Rocky Mountain Regional

Office. Dolly assisted the Public Building Service's (PBS) largest federal agency customers in strategically planning and acquiring their office space needs. In her former position, Dolly was the region's lead representative on the national PBS Procurement Leadership Network, and an advisor and consultant on procurement to the region, other regions, GSA's Central Office, other agencies, industry, and the public.

Ms. Fernandez has enjoyed and been challenged by her two-decade career in federal procurement, working in a variety of contract specialist and procurement analyst positions for the Air Force in San Antonio, TX before moving to Denver a decade ago.

Dolly has been active in the Denver Chapter of the National Contract Management Association for the last six years, and will become chapter President on July 1, 2004. She co-authored the article, "Private Industry and GSA Together: Smoothing Out the Ride in the 'Ups and Downs' Business," published in the December 2002 issue of National Contract Management Association's Contract Management magazine. Dolly is also an active speaker at various federal and industry procurement conferences and training seminars.

Karen Vanzant has joined DSC as a Branch Chief for the Contracting Services Division. Karen is joining NPS from the General Services Administration, where she was the Lead Contract Specialist for the Denver Federal Center Service Center. Karen began her 21-year contracting career working in the Base contracting Office and later HQ Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base. She later worked for the Department of Energy's Western Area Power Administration for nine years in Denver before returning to Germany for a 2-year tour with the U.S. Army.

E-mail note from Woody Smeck, Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains: I had an opportunity to visit Solstice Canyon. . . . I was absolutely overwhelmed by the condition of everything. The entry sign, road and shoulders look outstanding! The plantings and seeding throughout the area are perfect! The education shelter, amphitheater, and kiosk are stunning! The pay phone works! The restrooms and drinking fountain are beautiful . . . the details on the hitching posts and bike racks are a nice touch. Even the mail boxes look great. I can't think of enough adjectives to describe the area. It sets a new standard for quality visitor facilities in the Santa Monica Mountains that I doubt will ever be equaled . . . a legacy effort that will impress for years! Thank you, thank you, thank you. ~ *Woody Smeck, Superintendent*



Ken Franc received an on the spot award from the Carlsbad Caverns National Park for his contribution and dedication on their visitor center rehabilitation project. In an 8-month period, Ken obtained a revised schematic design, completed the value analysis in-park, involved the concessions staff from the regional office, and took the project to the Development Advisory Board for approval. Congratulations Ken!

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN - Making a Difference

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season is on the horizon. The CFC gives federal employees the opportunity to donate contributions to one or more pre-screened charitable organizations. We are pleased to announce our CFC Chairperson for this season is Leslie Peterson. Leslie is building the DSC team to make plans for the kickoff event and help distribute and collect donation forms. DSC's CFC will run its campaign for a 3-4 week period during the fall. If you are interested in joining the CFC team, please contact Leslie at 303.969.2323.

Why should you contribute to the CFC? It's convenient, one-stop shopping for you and cost effective for the organizations. It's tax deductible - and it makes a difference. Last year Denver area federal workers donated \$3,452,262 - with most funding going to support local charities. If you enjoy your quality of life in the Denver area, this is a great way to give something back to the communities and people living here.

You can make a one-time contribution with a check or cash, or spread your contributions throughout the year through payroll deductions. And there are hundreds of organizations to choose from. Some of the past year's favorites have included the Denver Dumb Friends League, the Nature Conservancy, Food Bank of the Rockies, and the American Cancer Society.

Please stay tuned for campaign updates and information on new incentives (including discount coupons for Six Flags Elitch Gardens & airline discounts) for contributing to CFC this year.



DSC in the News

DSC's Partnerships Program is highlighted in an article in the current issue of NPS's *Sustainability News Magazine*. There are also articles featuring DSC efforts on the Sandstone Visitor Center at New River Gorge National River, and the Design and construction of Liberty Square and Fort Sumter Visitor Center. You can read the magazine online at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/sustainabilitynews>.

Around the Watercooler

The NPS/Denver Employees Association is a non-profit, nonpolitical organization designed to foster friendship and unity among co-workers and the NPS alumni. The primary objective of the Association is to promote the recreational and social activities for the benefit of its members and surrounding communities. All employees are considered members of the Association, and people are encouraged to participate either by attending or volunteering at sponsored events. Events during the year include the Employees' Appreciation day, Easter candy sale, used book sale, ice cream social, Christmas gift program, bake sales, and Founders Day celebration. Please learn more about the Employee Association by attending one of their meetings. You can find the monthly meeting agenda above the water fountains and side door glass cases, and look for announcements on Lotus Notes.

Combating the Blaster Internet Worm. The National Cyber Security Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has issued an advisory concerning the Internet worm known as MSBlast, LovSan & Blaster that has been infecting computers worldwide since August 11th. This worm has infected many computers running Microsoft Windows operating systems, including Windows 2000 and Windows XP. The worm does not target systems running Windows 98 or Windows ME. If you experience problems with your computer, please contact your user management team member.

Information Management

The following excerpts are from the article "*The Never Ending Spam*" published on InsideNPS. You can read the full article at:

<http://inside.nps.gov/programs/divisionnewsdetail.cfm?div=48&id=1473&type=Announcement&Page=news>

The Never Ending Spam

Are you a Spammer? What can employees do? Have you ever sent job announcements, retirement notifications, large files of some report, etc., out to large all employee mailing lists because you didn't know of a better way to get the word out? How many times have you seen a message sent out to a large list of people and then someone responded to "All" and then everyone started commenting back and forth about how this needed to stop except they were themselves responding to "All". There are better ways to do this. InsideNPS.gov has a "People" section where you can post messages about retirements and other social notices. There is also a section where you can post information about new job vacancies. One recent message about a retirement function with a size of 770k sent to a large mailing list generated 690mb of traffic. When you send a message, that one message is multiplied in size by the total number of recipients. If you send a message like this one that is approximately 1 mb to about 700 people it will generate that much traffic. In some cases one simple message like this one can tie up mail delivery for quite some time.

As we upgrade to new versions of Lotus Notes and Domino our ability to block more spam will increase with the use of tools such as DNS Black Lists. In the meantime, we all can help in small ways to keep it under control.

- Get a personal email account that you can use for non-work mailing lists that you need to be on.
- Look for that box on forms that require an email address that asks if you do or do not want to receive mailings from this company.
- Look for "unsubscribe" options on unwanted mailings that you get.
- If you're getting bombarded by a spammer send that message to SpamBox, a Notes mailing database. It's easily addressed to by simply typing SPAMbox in the "To" line of your forwarded message. Messages in this box are reviewed for new additions to our content filters.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 All Employee Mtg. 1:00 - Rooms 10A/B	5 DAB meeting in Denver	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Joint Ventures Conference Planning Mtg. in DC - Wenk	14	15	16
17	18	19 Brown Bag Lunch 11:30 - 12:30 Room 283	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Founders Day lunch 11:00 - 1:00	27	28	29	30
31						

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Brown Bag Lunch 11:30 - Room 283	9	10 Free lunch! CFC city-wide kick-off - 11:00 to 1:00, Fed. Center Centennial Park	11	12 Joint Ventures Conference Planning Mtg. in DC - Wenk	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 FY03 closing	23 NPS Alumni lunch 11:00 - Villa del Sol in Lakewood	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 FY03 end				